



**TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CENTRAL OFFICE**
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January 27, 2006
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner's Present:

Commissioner Hakeem
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Pierce
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Todd
Chairman Wiggins

Commissioner's Absent:

Commissioner Garrett
Commissioner Hodge
Commissioner Horne
Commissioner Kyles
Commissioner Pride
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Walker

Staff Present:

Amber D. Gooding, Executive Director
Antonio Adams, Deputy Director
Shay Rose, General Counsel
Robert Bright, Housing Director
Lisa Lancaster, Director's Assistant

Guests:

None

Call to Order

Chairman Wiggins called the meeting to order at 9:08 am. Roll call was taken and Commissioner Todd offered the invocation.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the November 2005 were reviewed and Commissioner Hakeem made a motion to accept which was seconded by Commissioner Pierce. A vote was taken and passed.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Amber Gooding noted that the Performance Audit team has presented the Scope of Work and are expected to submit a draft of their findings in March/April. The expectation is that the final report will be available in May which will be reviewed by Chairman Wiggins and the Finance and Audit Committee.

Congratulations were offered to Commissioner Hakeem who has been appointed by Gov. Bredesen to the Board of Paroles. It was announced that Gov. Bredesen has appointed A. J. Starling to fill the Middle division vacancy on our board created by the death of Commissioner Rodriguez. He will be present at the March 24, 2006 board meeting.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report and Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Employment Case Report

Deputy Director, Antonio Adams reported on the 115 employment cases closed since the November 2005 board meeting and the 15 settlements and \$118,557 in benefits received. It was noted that 58 new complaints have been received during the same time period. Upcoming events noted were the employment training sessions on the new EEOC database system IMS and the joint training session in the spring that will include Housing division on the mechanics of investigative writing and interviewing techniques.

Commissioner Todd made a motion to accept the Employment report. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Housing Case Report

Housing Director, Robert Bright, gave an update on Housing cases for the same time period noting that 37 new housing cases have been received and 17 cases closed with the largest number of cases being filed on the bases of Physical handicap.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the Housing report. Commissioner Hakeem seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Legal Report

General Counsel, Shay Rose, noted to the board members that today is Executive Director Gooding's birthday. Congratulations were offered. Seven (7) Employment and Sixteen (16) Housing cause cases were reviewed with the board by General Counsel Rose.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to accept the Legal report Commissioner Todd seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed.

Executive Director Gooding noted that she will meet with Commissioner Pierce, Chairperson of the bylaws committee in the near future. The next Board meeting will be March 24, 2006. It was also noted that the Budget & Audit Committee needs to meet in February.

After wishing the board a Happy New Year, Chairman Wiggins called for the board meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was closed at 9:30 am.